

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 03233 271543Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00
CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02
SP-02 SS-15 IO-14 A-01 OPR-02 OC-06 SY-05 HA-05
SCS-06 CCO-00 /089 W
-----071213 271549Z /64

Z O 270300Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 7587
SECDEF FLASH
CINCPAC FLASH
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS KABUL 3233

SITREP 4

SECDEF: FOR DIRNSA (FORT MEADE, MD)

CINCPAC: FOR POLAD: CP (H.M. SMITH, HI)

ISLAMABAD, NEW DELHI, TEHRAN: ALSO FOR USDAOS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, AF
SUBJECT: MILITARY CONFLICT IN KABUL

REF: KABUL 3229

1. FLIGHTING IN KABUL RENEWED SHARPLY AT 1744 WHEN MIG-21 AND
SU-7 JETS STRAFED AND ROCKETED PALACE COMPOUND (WHERE DAOUD AND
SUPPORTERS WERE BELIEVED TO BE GATHERED) UNTIL 1814.
ATTACK RECOMMENCED AT 1820. COMPOUND BUILDINGS SUSTAINED HEAVY
DAMAGE -- AND NO EFFECTIVE RETURN FIRE WAS OBSERVED.
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PAGE 02 KABUL 03233 271543Z

2. TANKS AND INFANTRY ARE EXCHANGING CANNON AND SMALL ARMS
FIRE THROUGHOUT OLD CITY, WAZIR AKBAR KHAN, SHAR-I-NAU,
KART-I-PARWAN, AND THE AIRPORT AREA. ALTHOUGH TANKS ARE
PATROLLING KART-I-CHAR AND KART-I-SE, THERE IS LITTLE
FIGHTING THERE AT THIS TIME.

3. RADIO AFGHANISTAN CAME BACK ON THE AIR AT 1825, PLAYING ONLY MUSIC. THIS INSTALLATION, WHICH IS VERY NEAR EMBASSY, IS BELIEVED TO BE UNDER REBEL CONTROL. WE REACH THIS CONCLUSION BECAUSE NONE OF THE TANKS NEAR RADIO AFGHANISTAN FIRED ON THE ATTACKING AIRCRAFT AND BECAUSE OF THE GOVERNMENT WERE IN CONTROL OF THE RADIO, WE ASSUME THERE WOULD BE SOME KIND OF REASSURING ANNOUNCEMENT. THE REBELS MAY, HOWEVER, HOLD OFF ANY ANNOUNCEMENT UNTIL THEY HAVE FULL CONTROL.

4. AT 1630, FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL MOHAMMAD YAHYA MAROOFI TOLD THE SAUDI ARABIAN AMBASSADOR THAT DAOUD WAS SAFE IN THE PALACE COMPOUND WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS. EVERYTHING WAS UNDER CONTROL, AND THAT HE, MAROOFI, WAS GOING HOME (AS MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH ONE, THE PALACE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY HIT HARD).

5. AS DUSK FALLS OVER KABUL AT 1830, JETS CONTINUE TO CIRCLE OVER THE CITY. THE PALACE COMPOUND IS IN FLAMES.

6. NO AMERICAN INJURIES HAVE BEEN REPORTED YET, BUT A FEW AMERICAN HOMES HAVE SUSTAINED SOME DAMAGE. IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY TO MOVE A FEW TO SAFER LOCATIONS.

7. THUS FAR, FORCES IN THIS AREA HAVE NOT INDICATED ANY HOSTILITY AGAINST THIS EMBASSY. WE ARE STILL NOT CERTAIN
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PAGE 03 KABUL 03233 271543Z

WHICH UNIT BELONGS TO WHICH SIDE. ALTHOUGH THE EVIDENCE IS OVERWHELMING THAT THE AIR FORCE IS UNDER REBEL CONTROL AND MANY ATTACK PASSES AGAINST THE PALACE COMPOUND HAVE SWOOPED OVER THE EMBASSY, OUR ONLY DANGER AT THIS TIME SEEMS TO BE FROM A STRAY ROUND.

8. PHONES WENT DEAD AT EMBASSY AT 1905.
ELIOT

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SITREP, REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, AIR EXERCISES, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KABUL03233
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780180-0532
Format: TEL
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780411/aaaaaikn.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 423dbda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KABUL 3229
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2831459
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY CONFLICT IN KABUL
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, AF
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/423dbda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014